

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 7 are amended. Also, the specification is amended. No new matter is added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to the specification under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as not being written in full, clear, concise, and exact terms. The specification is amended to obviate the objection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

The Office Action rejects claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 7 is amended to obviate the rejection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the §112, second paragraph, rejection.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chiriku (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0168882); and rejects claims 6-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chiriku in view of Von Arx (U.S. Patent No. 5,598,322). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

I. §103(a) Rejection of Claims 1-5

Specifically, Regarding the §103(a) rejection of claims 1-5, Applicants assert that Chiriku does not disclose a distribution unit including at least an insulating case that is provided with a short-circuit prevention section intervening between each fuse connection terminal for preventing a short circuit between the fuse connection terminals, as recited in independent claim 1.

Chiriku discloses fuse sockets (item 16e, Figure 3) that are shown to separate the fuses and their respective connection terminal pairs. However, Chiriku does not disclose a section for separating each individual connection terminal, and thus, fails to disclose a distribution unit including at least an insulating case that is provided with a short-circuit prevention

section intervening between each fuse connection terminal for preventing a short circuit between the fuse connection terminals, as recited in independent claim 1.

II. §103(a) Rejection of Claims 6-7

Regarding the §103(a) rejection of claims 6-7, Applicants assert that Chiriku and Von Arx, individually or in combination, fail to disclose a distribution unit including at least a water resistance layer that is formed in a state in which at least a part of the power circuit section is sealed inside the surround wall member and the water resistance layer leads to the inside of the connector housing through the terminal through hole and the top face of the water resistance layer is set higher than the bottom of the connector housing and is set lower than the tip face of the projection rib, as recited in independent claim 6.

Chiriku merely discloses a junction box having a cover for housing a first, second, and third boards. Chiriku nowhere discloses a water resistance layer, and thus, fails to disclose a distribution unit including at least a water resistance layer that is formed in a state in which at least a part of the power circuit section is sealed inside the surround wall member and the water resistance layer leads to the inside of the connector housing through the terminal through hole and the top face of the water resistance layer is set higher than the bottom of the connector housing and is set lower than the tip face of the projection rib, as recited in independent claim 6.

Von Arx merely discloses a power control system which is mounted in a DIN rail assembly. Von Arx also fails to disclose a distribution unit including at least a water resistance layer, as recited in claim 6, and thus, fails to make up for the deficiencies of Chiriku.

Accordingly, Applicants assert that Chiriku and Von Arx fail to disclose, individually or in combination, a distribution unit including at least a water resistance layer that is formed in a state in which at least a part of the power circuit section is sealed inside the surround wall

member and the water resistance layer leads to the inside of the connector housing through the terminal through hole and the top face of the water resistance layer is set higher than the bottom of the connector housing and is set lower than the tip face of the projection rib, as recited in independent claim 6.

III. §103(a) Rejection of Claims 8-11

Regarding the §103(a) rejection of claims 8-11, Applicants assert that Chiriku and Von Arx fail to disclose, individually or in combination, a distribution unit including at least a case for covering the power circuit section, wherein ends of a plurality of specific bus bars included in the power circuit section are projected from the case to form external connection terminals, each of specific external connection terminals of the external connection terminals has an upright part rising from the circuit disposition face and an extension part extending from the tip of the upright part to the outside of the circuit disposition face substantially in parallel with the circuit disposition face, as recited in independent claim 8.

Chiriku merely discloses upright terminal portions (item 43, Figure 3) and bus bars (item 42, Figure 3) where the bus bars *do not* extend from the tip of the upright part. Thus, Chiriku fails to disclose a distribution unit including at least an extension part extending from the tip of the upright part to the outside of the circuit disposition face substantially in parallel with the circuit disposition face, as recited in claim 8.

Von Arx merely discloses a power control system which is mounted in a DIN rail assembly. Von Arx also fails to disclose a distribution unit including at least an extension part extending from the tip of the upright part to the outside of the circuit disposition face substantially in parallel with the circuit disposition face, as recited in claim 8, and thus, fails to make up for the deficiencies of Chiriku.

Accordingly, Applicants assert that Chiriku and Von Arx fail to disclose, individually or in combination, a distribution unit including at least a case for covering the power circuit

section, wherein ends of a plurality of specific bus bars included in the power circuit section are projected from the case to form external connection terminals, each of specific external connection terminals of the external connection terminals has an upright part rising from the circuit disposition face and an extension part extending from the tip of the upright part to the outside of the circuit disposition face substantially in parallel with the circuit disposition face, as recited in independent claim 8.

IV. Conclusion

In accordance with the above remarks, Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 6, and 8 define patentable subject matter. Claims 2-5, 7, and 9-11 depend from independent claims 1, 6, and 8, respectively, and therefore, also define patentable subject matter. Thus Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the §103(a) rejections.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-11 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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